

NO FOREIGN DISSEM

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
16 June 1966

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Situation in South Vietnam
(As of 11:00 A.M. EDT)

Government Move in Hue

1. Approximately 500 troops from the progovernment Fifth Airborne Battalion began to move into Hue from the nearby Phu Bai airbase beginning at 9:00 P.M. Vietnam time last night (15 June) to reinforce the combat police under the command of Premier Ky's strongman, Colonel Loan. Early this morning, the paratroopers began occupying key points in the city amid non-violent protests and opposition from Buddhist monks, youths, and dissident 1st Division soldiers.

2. At approximately 4:00 A.M. Vietnam time this morning, the police began removing altars from the streets, either placing them back in homes or trucking them to a field in the "citadel" in the old traditional part of the city.

3. By evening on 16 June, the government forces were reportedly in control of the main arteries leading into the city, but dissident soldiers and Buddhists were gathering at one of the pagodas and the 1st Division headquarters. Soldiers attempting to demonstrate against the move during the day were reportedly dispersed by tear gas grenades. Although the press has reported that signs of bloodshed were apparent in the area of the demonstrations, there is no confirmation of casualties from gunfire.

4. MACV phoned that at 7:00 P.M. tonight Vietnam time, elements of the Fifth Airborne paratroopers

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engaged the 1st Division Reconnaissance Company (the so-called Black Panthers). There is no further reporting on this engagement.

5. A high-ranking bonze in Hue broadcast an appeal this afternoon for all Buddhist military forces to stage a sit-down strike and follow a policy of non-violence.

6. US sources report that Tri Quang, still engaged in his hunger strike, will be confined to his hospital room under informal detention and will be allowed no outside contact.

Demonstrations in Saigon

7. Government security forces and riot police continued to break up a rash of disorderly Buddhist-led demonstrations on 16 June. In the fourth consecutive day of Buddhist rioting in the capital, roaming bands of youth reportedly set fire to a US Army truck and a South Vietnamese tank. Three major arteries between Saigon and Tan Son Nhut airbase were blocked for varying periods by Buddhist mobs.